



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Agenda

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager 860-441-6630

### Representative Town Meeting

*Moderator Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Christopher J. Burns, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Luanne E. DeMatto, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Damon Q. Helme, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Jennifer Smuts, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, and Robert A. Warn*

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Wednesday, December 08, 2010

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

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### Regular Meeting

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- A. ROLL CALL
- B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2010
- D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

This is the portion of the RTM agenda where the RTM welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to ten minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be limited to matters pertinent to Groton. The Moderator, or members through the Moderator, shall ask questions only in order to clarify the speaker's presentation. Responses may be given by the Moderator and/or by the Town Manager. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

- E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS
- F. PRESENTATION
  - 1. Thames Street Review Committee Report-Marian Galbraith
- G. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:
  - 1. Financial report
  - 2. Monthly briefing
- H. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
  - 1. IT Department- Director Paul Sikorski
- I. LIAISON REPORTS
- J. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - 1. FINANCE
  - 2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Pratt
  - 3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

4. RECREATION - Chairman Warn
5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Parfitt
6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins
7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Scott

## K. OTHER BUSINESS

### 2010-0181 FYE2012 Budget Discussion

#### FYE2012 BUDGET DISCUSSION

##### Legislative History

##### 8/18/2010 Representative Town Meeting Discussed

Rep. Kotowski requested that a standing referral be added to the RTM agenda under "Other Business" to enable budget discussion. She feels this will allow the RTM to establish goals and identify items to be reduced or eliminated in next year's budget prior to the budget deliberations. She would like to initiate communication with the Town Manager, Board of Education and Town Council before the Manager's proposed budget is finished. She suggests that a budget be developed that would not increase taxes for Groton taxpayers. She commented that taxes in Groton have increased more than any other Town in the region. She mentioned that many residents of her district are suffering as a result of the economic downturn. She observed that union employees of the Town voted twice and rejected concessions to the Town.

Moderator Power stated that a standing referral will appear on the agenda. This will allow discussion prior to budget deliberations in May. He mentioned that this was done last year.

##### 10/13/2010 Representative Town Meeting Discussed

Rep. Kotowski expressed her concern in regard to the raises authorized for the School Central Office administrative employees which range from 5% to 17%. She believes that the Town and Board of Education (BOE) should be fiscally responsible during the current economic situation.

Rep. Massett requested that department heads be invited to the RTM meetings so that they can specify the impact on specific services or items in accordance with reductions that the RTM may recommend during the budget process. She gave several figures as examples.

The Moderator acknowledged that department heads can be invited to address the RTM concerning next year's budget.

Rep. Swindell believes that the disparity between private and public sector wages needs to be addressed. He asked for a freeze on wages for employees and suggested that the Town initiate contact with the unions now for next year's budget. He believes that the mill rate should not increase for next year. He asked for information on what services would be impacted by layoffs and mentioned that the private sector has suffered layoffs, reduced hours and furloughs.

Rep. Morton would like to develop an RTM recommendation by consensus that the Manager and Town Council provide a budget with a zero mill rate increase.

Rep. Ambrose stated that Social Security payments will not be increased this year. He noted that election results in November may impact both State and Federal budgets which subsequently affect municipalities.

School Superintendent Paul Kadri addressed the wage increases for the Central Office administrative staff. He emphasized that the BOE delivered a zero percent budget increase this year but in order to maintain student success and teacher performance, it is impossible to sustain a zero percent budget increase year after year. He volunteered to meet with RTM members in order to provide details about the phase two school construction projects prior to a referendum.

##### 11/10/2010 Representative Town Meeting Discussed

In response to Rep. Swindell, the Moderator noted that the School Superintendent can provide informal preliminary budget information each month under the new monthly agenda item "Report of the School Superintendent". Moderator Power informed Rep. Swindell that as chairman of the education committee, he can contact the Town Clerk's office to schedule public meetings with the Board of Education for informal

*budget discussions.*

*Rep. Sebastian commented that the Town needs to review and study Town revenues and not concentrate only on expenditures for the budget.*

*Moderator Power announced that department heads are being invited to address the RTM in regard to budget. He suggested that Economic Development could be scheduled for January. He invited members to prepare questions and creative ideas concerning economic development in Groton for that meeting.*

*Rep. Massett commented that the budget brainstorming session was very valuable. She hopes that more such sessions will be held.*

*Rep. Ambroise expressed concern that the municipal budget is developed prior to knowing what the State's budget is. He acknowledged that many items, such as personnel, pensions and benefits, are governed by contracts and that the most expensive item is personnel. He suggested that if any contracts are due for negotiation, contributions by employees for benefits and pensions should be increased.*

*In response to Rep. Steinfeld, the Town Manager stated that almost all contracts are due for negotiation in 2011 and that there is no provision in any contract that guarantees against employee layoffs.*

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**